



Universal Free School Lunch Has a Significant Positive Impact on Students of All Grade Levels

We found a significant increase in participation in schools where students had access to universal free school lunch:

Middle school students: 20 + point difference in participation (see Bar Graph A)

60% of middle school students with universal free school lunch ate vs. 40% without universal.

High school students: 15 + point difference in participation (see Bar Graph B)

45% of high school students with universal free school lunch ate vs. 30% without universal.

Elementary school students: 10 + point difference in participation (see Bar Graph C)

80% of elementary students with universal free school lunch ate vs. 70% without universal.

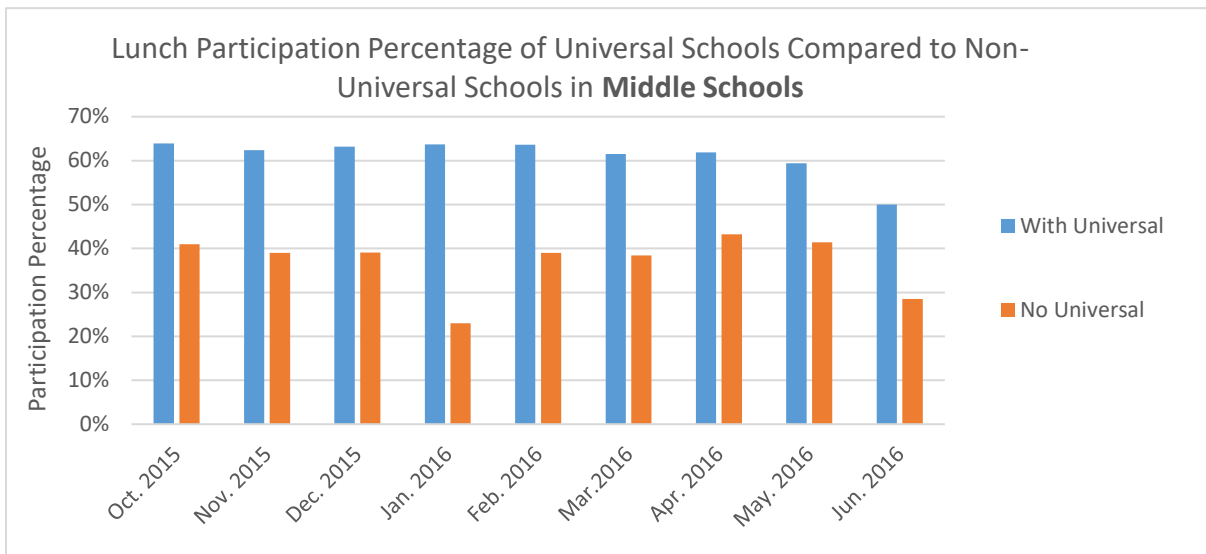
Community Food Advocates analyzed school lunch data for the 2015-16 school year, comparing participation rates for students with access to universal free school lunch vs. students with the traditional school lunch program.

A total of 582 schools offered universal free school lunch in 2015-16:

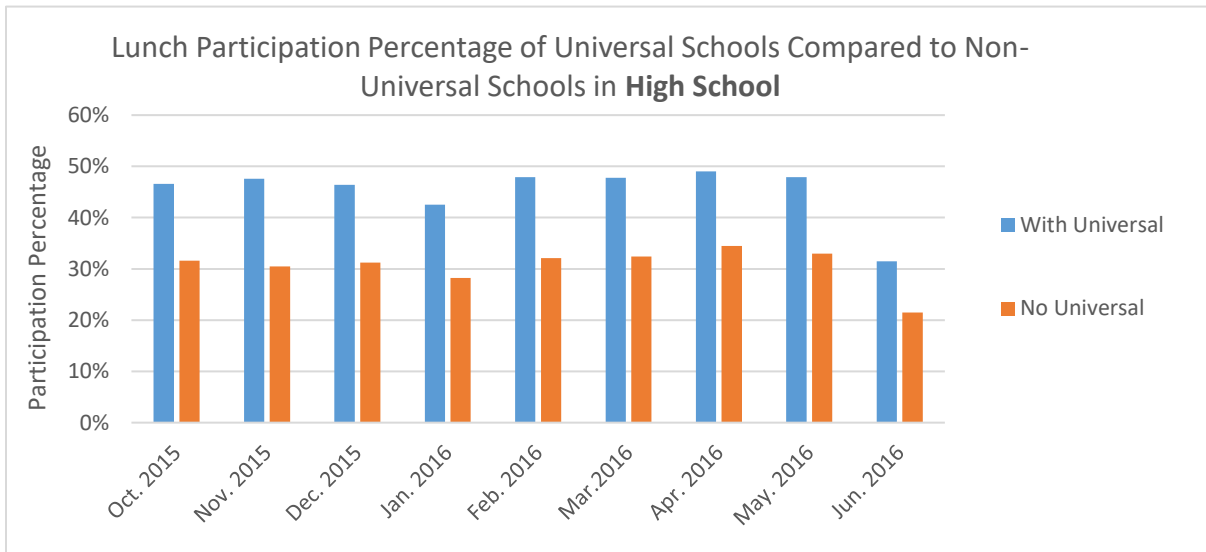
- 285 middle schools (148,119 registered students)
- 66 high schools (26,112 registered students)
- 231 elementary schools (150,640 registered students)

Note: Schools with a universal free lunch program operate under one of two federal programs -- either Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2. Both are federal options to encourage school districts to provide free meals to all students.

Bar Graph A



Bar Graph B



Bar Graph C

